

QUESTIONNAIRE

Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway for the Sustainable Development of SIDS

Background

The Department of Social and Economic Affairs is preparing the 2021 report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway in response to the request by the General Assembly, in its resolution 75/215, to the Secretary-General to submit at its seventy-fifth session.

UNFPA was requested to respond to a questionnaire on efforts to support Small Island Development States in relation to:

- Development interventions related to the achievement of the SDGs
- Response to the COVID-19 pandemic within the context of building resilience
- Development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index

Please note that strict word limits have been established for each question. In this regard, we are requested to report only on new or updated information. Previous surveys can be accessed at <https://sidsnetwork.org/> under reports.

Question 1. Legal/Policy/Institutional Arrangements for SIDS and/or the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway¹

Does your entity/organization/government have a SIDS Strategy? If not, are there any plans to establish one, including with the appropriate resources for implementation. (500 words)

UNFPA RESPONSE TO QUESTION 1:

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) serves small island developing states in the Caribbean, Pacific and Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea (AIS) regions through sub-regional offices and regional offices. In order to support the development priorities of SIDS as they relate to population data, health, including sexual and reproductive health, empowerment of young people, women and girls, gender equality and humanitarian response, UNFPA implements respective sub-regional multi-country programmes which reflect regional and national sustainable development priorities of SIDS and inter alia, the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway. UNFPA strategic plan 2018-2021 clearly indicates its alignment with the QCPR and its recommendations to put emphasis on the LDCs and SIDS.

The 2017-2021 sub-regional programme for twenty-two English-speaking and Dutch-speaking Caribbean, UNFPA is also reflected in the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework 2017-2021. The Pacific sub-regional programme (2018-2022) covers fourteen countries. In the AIS region, UNFPA has supported small island developing states through respective country programme documents.

¹ This question seeks to examine the extent to which each respondent mainstreamed SIDS and the Samoa Pathway into cooperation frameworks, programmes and activities, national development plans etc, to ensure effective follow-up and implementation at regional and national levels in SIDS.

In addition to regional institutional partners such as the Pacific Community (SPC), Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Economic Commission for Africa). UNFPA has collaborated with private sector and civil society partners at the national and regional levels.

Question 2. Financial Arrangements

Please give an indication of the budget allocated to the SAMOA Pathway programme areas in your government/organization/entity, if applicable, for the period Jan. - Dec. 2021 or the fiscal cycle that best fits this period. If the priority areas cannot squarely fit this chart, please report as closely as you can.

UNFPA RESPONSE TO QUESTION 2: Budget allocations are for indicative purposes only and do not reflect final allocations

Priorities	Investment (USD)	Budget Allocation	FY/ Cycle/ Period
Sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth			
Climate Change		364,374 ⁺	2021
Sustainable Energy		265,572 [*]	2020-2021
Disaster Risk Reduction		88,987 ⁺	
Oceans and Seas			
Food Security and Nutrition			
Water and Sanitation			
Sustainable Transportation			
Sustainable Consumption and Production			
Chemical and Waste management			
Health and NCDs		2,947,446 ⁺ 4,193,163 [*]	2021 2020-2021
Gender Equality		816,006 ⁺ 2,417,626 [*]	2021 2020-2021
Social Development		1,666,401 ⁺ 1,103,759 [*]	2021 2020-2021
Biodiversity			
Means of Implementation		2,634,807 ⁺	2021
Other			
Total		8,518,021 7,980,120[*]	

Pacific⁺

Caribbean^{*}

Question 3. Enhanced Support for a resilient Post COVID 19 Recovery in SIDS

Overcoming the economic fallout of the pandemic and regaining growth momentum in SIDS will require

a robust, practical, tailored and impactful solutions not only to keep SIDS afloat but also for the successful implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda. Please elaborate on any proposed resilience building interventions/programmes for implementation in SIDS that are to be pursued over the remaining period of the SAMOA Pathway. (500 words)

UNFPA RESPONSE TO QUESTION 3:

[The United Nations Comprehensive Response to COVID-19](#) and the [Global Humanitarian Response Plan to COVID-19](#) were launched in 2020. UNFPA's contribution included co-authoring the health pillar of the UN framework for the Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19 in collaboration with WHO and providing contributions to the other pillars of social protection and basic services, economic recovery, and multilateral collaboration. UNFPA also developed the [Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) Pandemic: UNFPA Global Response Plan](#).

In the Pacific, procured and distributed Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for frontline health workers to ensure continuity of essential health services including sexual and reproductive health services. With close of borders and restricted inter-island movements, UNFPA invested in the delivery of hybrid trainings where virtual technical support provided to country level master trainers to roll-out provincial and national level training. This tailored capacity development approach was adopted for Family Planning training, training on Minimum Initial Services Package for SRH and GBV in Humanitarian situations, and training on Gender Based Violence and Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support in the Pacific. For example, health workers from 9 Pacific SIDS completed the 'Veilomani' Training, a 13-week online training on telehealth with a special focus on gender-based violence and mental health care in a COVID-19 and Climate Change context. The Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu benefited from the joint initiative supported by UNFPA, Fiji National University, Asia Australia Mental Health, and Saint Vincent's Hospital.

As it pertains to gender equality, UNFPA has worked in collaboration with SIDS authorities and key stakeholders across the region to develop GBV service mappings and referral pathways updated to the COVID-19 context, strengthening the capacity of countries to better respond to GBV in both development and emergency settings in the Caribbean. UNFPA continued COVID-19 risk-communication and community engagement through its suite of SRH, GBV and Family Planning communication products, disseminated through the UNFPA media platforms and those of strategic partners. IPPF Affiliate, Barbados Family Planning Association reached over 100, 000 persons with these SRH, GBV and COVID-19 communications, which has resulted in an increase in the demand for services.

In the AIS region, the continuity of integrated SRH services and interventions during the pandemic was critical. Over 2000 women and youth had access to integrated SRH services in UNFPA-supported facilities. Interventions included numerous safe deliveries. In West Africa, UNFPA supported the Regional Health Directorate of Bissau (SAB) public and private health centres with personal protective equipment and facilitated the government's efforts to effectively communicate the proper use of masks to support health and help prevent the spread of COVID-19 among pregnant women. Further, UNFPA supported the government of Cabo Verde to provide emergency obstetric and new-born care as per international recommended standards. As it relates to providing services to women and girls subjected to violence,

including those with disabilities, UNFPA collaborated with national partners in order to ensure that survivors accessed essential services in the areas of health, social, police and justice.

Question 4. Financing for Sustainable Development in SIDS

The road to recovery post-COVID-19 will be challenging for SIDS. They will need new strategies and financial instruments to mobilize adequate resources for recovery and reconstruction. Please elaborate on any proposed/planned programmes that will be delivered to reduce risks and build resilience in SIDS, and/or that alleviate the liquidity and debt vulnerability challenges facing SIDS (500 words)

UNFPA RESPONSE TO QUESTION 4:

[General Assembly resolution 75/215, paragraph 8\(a\)](#) requested the UN Secretary-General “[T]o provide recommendations, as part of his report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session, on the potential development and coordination of work within the United Nations system on a multidimensional vulnerability index for small island developing States, including on its potential finalization and use.” In response, the United Nations Resident Coordinator Offices, in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions requested support from UNFPA as part of the United Nations Country Teams, to support efforts to develop a Multi-Vulnerability Index. UNFPA has also participated in technical webinars at the global level.

UNFPA, therefore partnered with The University of the West Indies (UWI) to examine and promote a culture of data appreciation. Data appreciation was conceptualized as valuing the form, features, function, and use of data to transform and improve the well-being of populations to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. To apply this definition of data appreciation and develop a conceptual framework for the Caribbean region, the objective for 2020 was to have a literature review completed. Given the importance of data in supporting resource mobilization efforts for issues such as health and gender equality, this partnership between UNFPA and The UWI is significant.